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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 09QUITO949, National Assembly President Cordero's Meeting with

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09QUITO949**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09QUITO949	2009-11-12 23:43	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Quito

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.eluniverso.com/2011/04/24/1/1355/cable-234454.html>

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	WHA-00
	PERC-00	DS-00	EAP-00	VCI-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	LAB-01	L-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00
	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00	ISNE-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	NCTC-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	/001W		

O R 122343Z NOV 09
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0322
INFO CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 000949

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS USTR BENNETT HARMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2019/11/12

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EINV](#) [MARR](#) [PHUM](#) [EAID](#) [EC](#)

SUBJECT: National Assembly President Cordero's Meeting with

Ambassador

CLASSIFIED BY: H...

id: 234454

date: 11/12/2009 23:43

refid: 09QUITO949

origin: Embassy Quito

classification: CONFIDENTIAL

destination:

header:

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	WHA-00
	PERC-00	DS-00	EAP-00	VCJ-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	LAB-01	L-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00
	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00	ISNE-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	NCTC-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	/001W		

O R 122343Z NOV 09

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AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

----- header ends -----

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 000949

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS USTR BENNETT HARMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2019/11/12

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EINV](#) [MARR](#) [PHUM](#) [EAID](#) [EC](#)

SUBJECT: National Assembly President Cordero's Meeting with
Ambassador

CLASSIFIED BY: Heather Hodges, Ambassador; REASON: 1.4(D)

¶1. (C) Summary: National Assembly President Cordero indicated he shared some of the Ambassador's concern about the GOE's decision to terminate the BIT and promised to discuss it with President Correa. He disowned the report by the former head of the International Relations Commission alleging thousands of deaths caused by the FOL, and said that the Assembly would responsibly manage the issue. He blamed the executive branch for the delay in approving 14 laws the Constitution said must be passed by October 14, and promised a response to USAID's assistance proposal. End Summary.

Bilateral Investment Treaty Termination

¶2. (C) In a November 6 meeting, the Ambassador raised USG concern over the GOE decision to cancel the U.S.-Ecuador Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) (Ref A). National Assembly President Fernando Cordero responded that termination of 13 such agreements is now being debated by the International Relations Commission headed by Fernando Bustamante, based on the constitutional requirement. He argued that the terminations would have no immediate effect. The Ambassador countered that in fact the effect on potential new investors would be immediate. Cordero expressed concern about this possibility, calling the GOE's decision inappropriate and highlighting the need for renegotiation before termination.

¶3. (C) The Ambassador pointed out that the MFA had told her that under a new investment agreement, the U.S. would be expected to

direct investment to areas targeted under the GOE's National Development Plan. Cordero termed this a strange idea. He promised he would discuss concerns over termination of the BIT with President Correa the following week. Cordero noted that the Assembly had ten business days starting on November 9 to consider the GOE's intention to terminate the agreements. He indicated that he thought a solution would be possible.

FOL Report

14. (C) The Ambassador then turned to the allegations by the International Relations Commission of the Legislative Commission that the U.S. Forward Operating Location (FOL) in Manta had caused the sinking of many boats and thousands of deaths (Ref B). She emphasized that there was no basis for such allegations. (Note: The Legislative Commission was the interim legislative body, now replaced by the National Assembly.) Cordero replied that the Legislative Commission had not made any pronouncement on this issue, that instead the then head of the International Relations Commission issued a report on a personal basis. He said the report had been submitted to the Prosecutor General's office and that the legislature's role had ended there.

15. (C) The Ambassador noted that there may have been boardings of fishing boats based on suspicion of their carrying illicit drugs, and that boardings were done in coordination with Ecuadorian authorities. She stressed that the incidents were too complicated to treat politically and were best handled by the Prosecutor General's office. She pointed out that International Relations Commission president Fernando Bustamante had told her that he planned to continue the investigation of the FOL. Cordero said the disadvantage of the International Relations Commission was that it handled primarily treaties and had little role in formulating laws (the implication being that the Commission had nothing else to do, so was attracted to investigating the FOL). He assured the Ambassador that any investigation would be responsibly managed.

Timeline for Key Laws; USAID Assistance Proposal

16. (C) Seeking to explain the National Assembly's failure to pass 11 of 14 laws that the Constitution required be approved by October 14, Cordero placed the blame on the Executive, saying that four of the draft laws did not reach the Assembly until a month after it convened on July 31, which did not leave the Assembly enough time. He said eight of the laws were now already under consideration by the plenary, and two of those were now undergoing the second plenary debate. Cordero explained that the Assembly had carefully planned to have adequate time to pass all required laws by the new deadline it had set of February 2010.

17. (SBU) USAID's Sergio Guzman thanked Cordero for his assistance in appointing a point of contact for USAID and explained that his office had sent over a proposal for possible areas of assistance. USAID is now waiting for the Assembly's comments. Cordero seemed aware of the proposal and promised that the Assembly would get back to USAID the following week.

CHRITTON

=====CABLE ENDS=====